

Update

In June, Governor Patton, Tom Layzell, Bill Brundage (Commissioner for the New Economy), Jim Ramsey (President, University of Louisville), staffs from the Council on Postsecondary Education and the Kentucky Department of Education, and Mike Fleitz of the Kentucky Council of Carpenters attended a meeting in Washington, D.C., of the five state partners in the American Diploma Project, where they reviewed plans drawn up in each of the states, along with drafts of the ADP benchmarks in mathematics and English.

At its July meeting, the Council on Postsecondary Education approved a state plan drawn from the recommendations made by the American Diploma Project Policy Panel at the March meeting of the P-16 Council. This plan was endorsed by the P-16 Council at its June meeting.

Commissioner Gene Wilhoit reviewed the recommendations for the Kentucky Board of Education at its June meeting and advised that the Board wait until the ADP benchmarks in mathematics and English language arts were issued before recommending changes to the core content. He recommended that no new components be added to the writing portfolio or the CATS test but that the meaning of “transactive” writing be clarified. No specific recommendations were made regarding mastery of content standards, and Board members discussed how postsecondary admissions requirements might reflect current research on the importance of high school mathematics. The Board agreed to work with other agencies to develop a communications plan to educate citizens about more demanding postsecondary and new economy expectations for high school graduates, including more advanced communication, mathematics, and problem-solving skills.

The ADP benchmarks, workplace and postsecondary work samples, and rationale statements were revised and circulated for review in late August. After the final round of national review, the ADP will hold a capstone meeting in November for formal national presentation. When the ADP benchmarks are finalized and made public, the Kentucky Board of Education will then take up the issue of refining Kentucky’s content standards based on this national research.